

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed on October 6, 2006. Claims 77-125 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 64 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 64-76 are now pending in the application.

The drawings are objected to because "they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 57 (Figure 6)." Office Action, page 7. Please note however, that Figure 6 contains the reference numeral 57 in the bottom left portion of the Figure. Thus, the objection should be withdrawn.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 64-76 are allowed. Claims 64-76 are now the only claims pending in the application, and the application is therefore in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 124 and 125 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112; claim 77 stands rejected under the nonstatutory double patenting doctrine; claims 77, 78, 101-103 and 113 stand rejected as being anticipated by Elian; claims 124 and 125 stand rejected as being anticipated by Abarno; claims 79-86 and 104-111 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Elian in view of Hansson; claims 86, 87 and 112 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Elian in view of Hansson and Morgan; claims 89-91 and 114-117 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Elian in view of Morgan; and claims 92-100 and 118-123 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Elian in view of Morgan and Hansson. Office Action, pages 2-6.

Applicant respectfully traverses all of the foregoing rejections for several reasons. For example, the Office Action does not address specific limitations of the claims (e.g., "said coronal end is configured to follow bony anatomy of the jawbone" of

claim 101). Applicant also disagrees with the Office Action's characterizations of the features disclosed in the references, and the assertions that features of the references are properly combinable. In addition, Applicant notes that dependent claim 88 has not been addressed.

Notwithstanding Applicant's traversal of the rejections, the rejected claims have been cancelled solely to advance the allowable subject matter to issue. The claims are being cancelled without prejudice, and Applicant intends to pursue the cancelled claims, and other claims, in other applications.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

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Respectfully submitted,

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